

Manitoba Calling



The Life-Line is Firm - thanks to
THE MERCHANT NAVY



RADIO BRANCH

CKY - CKX

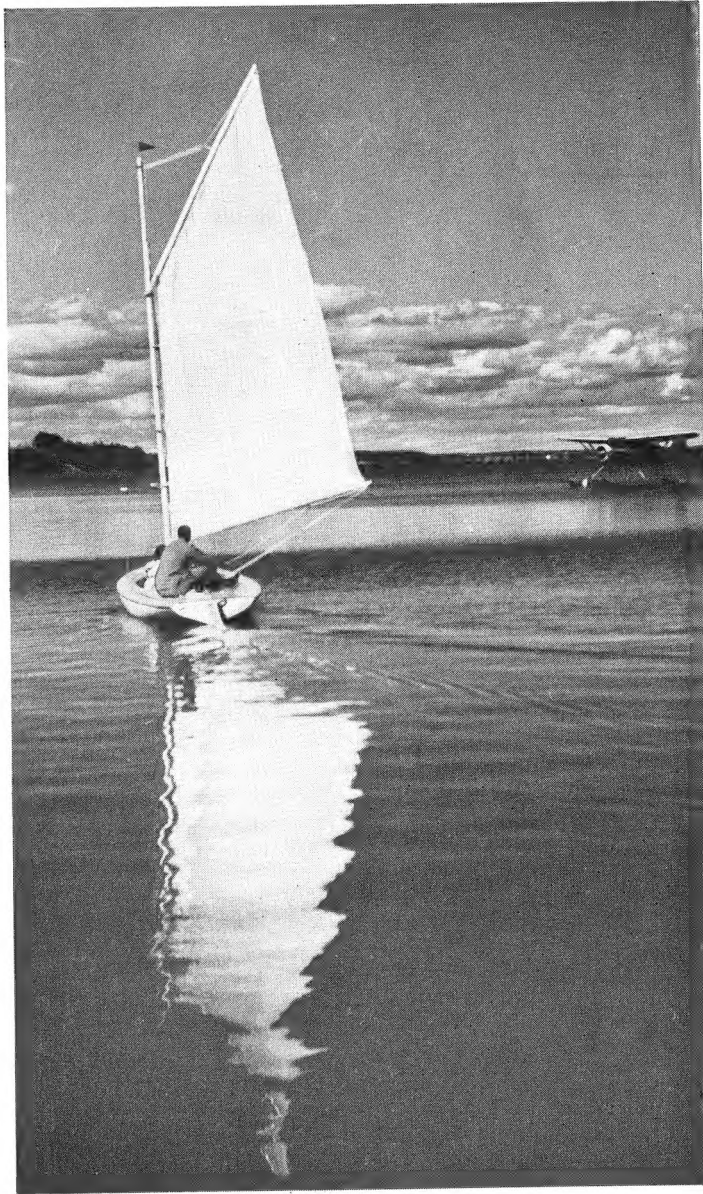
MANITOBA

TELEPHONE SYSTEM

VOL. VI NO. 8

AUGUST 1942

Summer Reflections





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Radio's Contribution

Radio broadcasting is playing a real part in publicizing the war effort, not only in programmes especially designed to create interest in some particular phase of war work, but in the regular programmes heard daily and weekly.

The magazine "Variety" has pointed to this fact in its award of Special Scrolls of Honour to several commercial programmes for their imaginative and effective methods of incorporating war-messages in their scripts.

The list of awards includes 'The Aldrich Family,' 'Easy Aces,' 'Kraft Music Hall,' 'Fibber McGee and Molly' and 'Lum and Abner.'

The day-time serials, too, are making a splendid contribution to the war effort by writing-in, in an entertaining and dramatic way, situations that are designed to give impetus to the war effort.

Radio itself is only one part of the total of all morale-building or morale-conditioning media, but in many ways it is probably the dominant medium because of its capacity to reach millions so swiftly and so certainly.



Personalities and Events

. . . around CKY - CKX

Pictured in (1) is Gerry Broadbent, a recent comer to CKY's staff of announcers, who leaves us on August 1st to enter the Naval Service. Gerry, a native of Winnipeg, is an ardent follower of outdoor sports and spends his hours off-duty on the tennis-courts or paddling up the river. (2) Tom Benson (seated), back from holidays, tells Kerr Wilson about "the one that got away!" Tom, popular M.C. of the early morning "Uncle Tommy's Cabin", has won a wide following with his informal chatter and spinning of tall tales in the morning programmes. Kerr Wilson (standing), one of CKY's latest additions to the announcing staff, was formerly with the Commercial Department of CKY. Possessor of a pleasing baritone voice, Kerr made his radio debut as a guest vocalist on the Studio Strings Programme,—so "ol' man mike" was no stranger to him when he joined the announcing staff. The handsome gentleman in uniform (3) is Don Keith, genial guide who conducts the CKY Studio Tours. Don now wears the uniform of the Canadian Corps of Commissioners, with the R.A.F. Insignia and Service Ribbons. Enlisting in 1914 with the 28th Battalion, Infantry, he served in France until after Vimy in '17. He then transferred to the Royal Flying Corps and returned to fly in France and Belgium as a Flying Officer with the No. 20 Squadron, Bristol Fighters, (ace Billy Bishop flew with this same squadron). Don was invalided back to Canada in June, 1918. The newest voice on CKY is that of Norm Micklewright (4) who transferred to CKY recently from CKX Brandon. Though he will be missed at CKX, we feel sure that his former listeners wish him all success in his new field. Those dulcet feminine tones heard on CKX belong to Peggy Fyfe, formerly secretary, now a member of the CKX announcing staff. CKY announcer George Robertson (5) said his adieus on Saturday, July 11th, when he forsook the microphone for a career in the Air Force. On the staff of CKY since October, George has made many friends both "on" and "off" the air. All our good wishes follow him as he dons the uniform of the R.C.A.F. Added to the fast-growing list of CKY-CKX staff members who have joined the Armed Services are several others who are taking study-courses in connection with Army work. It may be summer fashions, or possibly a summer resort folder, (6) that commands the interest of Georgina Moyse (right) of the CKY General Office Staff and Yvonne Lough, of the Public Relations Office. Pictures (8) and (9) were snapped during broadcasts via CKX from the Brandon Exhibition. Russ Carriere, CKX announcer, (8) takes a microphone to Aloha Land, to pick-up a background of Hawaiian music in a broadcast from the Midway. In (9) Humphrey Davies (holding microphone) is interviewing an official of the Midway Attractions. Adjusting his sun-glasses in the background is W. F. Seller, CKX Manager. Picture (10) was taken on the occasion of a presentation to CKY Operator George Ritchie, whose marriage to Miss Edna Robold took place in Winnipeg on Saturday, July 4th. In the foreground are CKY Chief Engineer Bill Duffield (right) and George Ritchie (left). In the background, left to right, are Operator Dave Tasker, Announcer George Robertson, Dorothy Thompson, of the General Office Staff, and Announcer Kerr Wilson. In (7) George and Edna pose for the cameraman in the C.P.R. garden at Kenora, Ont.

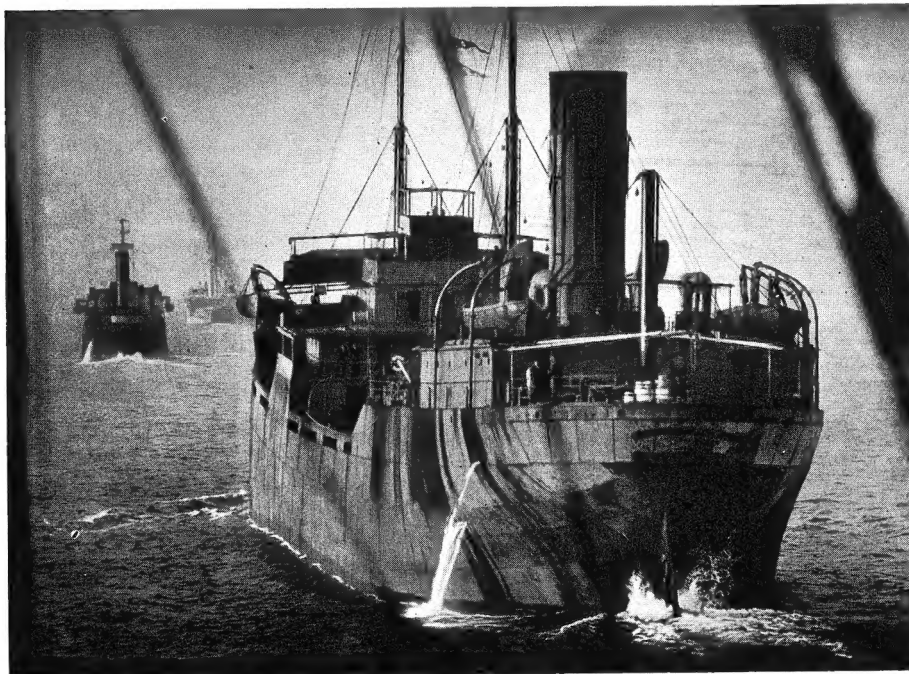


"Manitoba Calling"



CONVOY

They faced the seas; they took their ships
 Through storm and fog bank, night by night.
 Now, meeting murder—seamanlike
 They strip and man their guns, and fight.



When history records the events of World War II a dramatic chapter will tell something of the heroic courage of the men of the Merchant Marine—those gallant sailors who brave the unkind elements on the broad seas and the menace of skulking Nazi U-boats, torpedoes and mines—that the essential materials of war might reach their destinations.

While history will record the work of the Merchant Marine an intimate glimpse into the very hearts of these men in blue may be found in three letters reproduced below. These letters are "thank-you" letters, written upon receipt of ditty bags at Christmas time. It may seem a little thing to contribute to the fund that makes these comforts possible, but we know that anyone who has contributed will feel proud when he

has read the heartfelt thanks expressed by these three writers. We take the opportunity, in the pages of "Manitoba Calling," to commend the work of the Navy League of Canada in organizing a fund for the purpose of providing ditty bags for the men of the Merchant Marine—those men who take such an integral part in the defence of Freedom, and who thank you in their own words in the letters which follow:-

Dear Miss Anderson:

I am the sailor who received your parcel and I want to thank you and tell you how much it meant to me especially this year for I looked forward to a Christmas without even a letter, and away down deep I admit I was just a bit sad. This life on the sea takes you away from home and family and some-

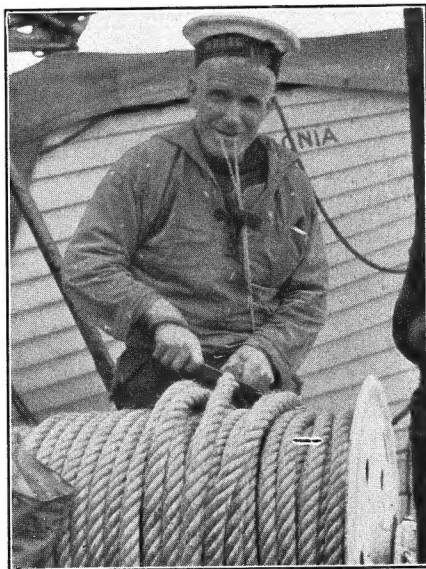
"Manitoba Calling"

times Christmas doesn't mean much to a sailor. It is all in a day's work and one day is the same as the next. When I got your ditty bag it made me feel different and it was the only parcel I received, but it was a grand one.

I won't give you a life history of myself, but perhaps you would like to know a little about me. I will be 19 years old in April. My father was a sea captain but died when I was ten years old. My home was in Coventry and I worked and lived with my mother and little sister until I was eighteen when I joined up with the Navy. Life at sea is not an easy one but I like it. It has been bitterly cold and we have run into bad storms. For days we don't know what it is to have dry clothes on, and they almost freeze on you, but I want to do my bit to win this war — for win we must and will. There'll always be an England but we must all fight. It was nice to know you and the organization remembered us and tried to make our Christmas brighter.

I said our home was in Coventry, but is no more, nor have I a mother or sister, both were killed in that brutal bombing. The day they were bombed I had received a parcel from mother containing two pairs of socks, a picture of herself and Mary and a Bible of my father's. Those socks seemed too sacred to wear. The picture and the Bible I prize very much, for it is all I have left. My return trip is with a sad heart for our home was blown to pieces so I have nothing. Perhaps you will understand better why that ditty bag seemed like a bit of mother and heaven coming as it did and everything was so nicely wrapped in Christmas paper and tied up just as though I was some swell person. Those long sea socks were grand and I sure needed them. Some lads didn't get any parcels so I shared the cake, candies, nuts, dates and cigs with them. The First Aid articles and mending supplies are great and always useful, and all the other games, books and parcels were grand. We had a grand time opening them. Thanks a thousand times for everything. We sure appreciated them all and it is nice to know the Canadians don't forget us.

I hope you had a nice Christmas with plenty of presents. I can't tell you much about my work or the boat, as it isn't allowed. I am sorry I haven't an address to give you just now, but I don't know just where I will go when I land on the other side, but I will get shore leave and will drop you another letter, and I hope to be back in Canada



and would like to get a letter from you when I send you an address.

Again I want to thank you, the League and your friends for remembering us, and for your encouragement and cheer for a sailor. . With best luck and good wishes for 1941.

Yours truly,

Bob Murray.

P.S. I hope you won't think I have written a sissy letter or too long a letter, but it was nice just to have someone to write a letter to again, and mother liked me to write and tell her as much as I could and how I liked my presents.

This eloquent letter from Frank Laskier, was written to the Navy League in appreciation of Canadians' kindness.

"This in its own way is the hardest and the most easy letter I have ever had to write. For it is hard to find words yet so easy to feel emotions. Will



"Manitoba Calling"



you please be patient with me and read a little between the lines.

All over the world wherever seamen have gathered together, the Canadian hospitality has been discussed and loved. These hard men who lead a hard life have become in a way enured to coldness ashore. They are used to being just "sailors," who appear ashore at night, wander about, do a little shopping, buy themselves a drink and vanish. A launch takes them bounding over the clear waters of the harbor and they crawl up ladders to disappear below. Almost all over the world they are permitted to do this except in Canada.

A fireman told me this story half an hour ago. His ship was laying alongside the quay at Vancouver with him aboard. A man came up the gangway and asked where the boys were. The fireman said they were ashore, almost all hands. So this bloke says "why aren't you with them?" And was answered, "Because I know no one and have no friends in Vancouver." "Sonny," said the man, "as long as you are in this port never say you've got no friends. Come on and join us, we're all for an outing." The fireman smiled at the memory. "You know," he said, "that was the nicest outing I've ever had."

Now I have found that true myself and that is why when I add up all the thoughtful kindnesses done by you kind good people it is difficult to put into words how I feel, or we feel.

All of us were very young once. I was, about 20 years ago, and I always remember those wonderful Xmas eves when the stockings would be hung up at the bottom of the bed, notes scrawled to Santa Claus for what we wanted. Then to go to bed, far too excited to sleep. There is a story in our family of one Xmas when we were all put to bed, and Mother and Dad went out to a party. They came back at about one o'clock, came into the living room and switched on the light. The room was littered with Xmas shopping colored wrappers on the floor, gay cards decorating the mantle piece, and there, in the corner, fast asleep by the dying fire, and in a white pyjama suit, was my little brother Philip. Fast asleep!

Mother ran and picked him up, holding him close and asked: "Darling, why did you come out of your warm bed and come down here in the cold?" Philip's answer, given with a sleepy yawn, was, "Well—I was waiting for Santa Claus."

And we are all waiting for Santa Claus. I think I told you before the boys of this crew are all so very young, they were packed off to sea at an early age and for years learned the hard gruelling profession, known as seamen. Rusty old tramps had to be taken from some sordid dock in Cardiff to the landlocked harbor of Sydney. Ships had to be conned from Vladivostok to Valparaiso. These boys did it. Thousands of miles from home and fireside, they ate Xmas dinners of pork with tinned vegetables. For them, unless by some queer freak of chance, Xmas at home was just another lovely dream. Santa Claus still lived in their memories but as a slowly fading dream. Just a dream.

I have stood with men on the bridge at midnight and heard the talk of home and comfort, of little boys growing up, brothers and sisters getting married. They talk, these men, with their souls in their voices, a deep unspoken longing for a little quietness, a little surcease from the Cain-like wandering over the face of the earth. The spirit of Xmas seems far away when the ship trembles under the impact of those hammer-like blows that the western ocean can give. Who thinks of Xmas stockings when his own are full of icy sea water? You don't arrange Xmas cards around your cabin when green seas comb it from end to end. Yet being English and Christian we long for good cheer. On board this ship our crew have not had Xmas leave for two years. In war time you join your ship with a great aching gap in your heart to disappear for months on end. It is not easy to sign on a ship on December 5th and not come back home for seven months. We found out here—this port, that we again would miss our turkey and pudding. Very little was said. There are times when nothing can be said. But we looked at each other and thought of lockers crammed with Xmas presents, sweet little

(Continued on Page 14)

Making History

Touring extensively over wartime Britain today the British Broadcasting Corporation has eleven 'Mobile Recording Units.' These camouflaged armoured cars contain all the gear necessary to make a first class gramophone record.

The crew consists of a Recorded Programmes Assistant and a Mobile Recording Engineer. Their job is something similar to a press photographer on a newspaper. They have to go out and get pictures — action pictures — in sound.

Many and varied have been the assignments given to the Recording Cars. For instance, recording the noise of the crack British express train 'Silver Jubilee' approaching at eighty miles per hour, was a job given to this Unit. Another car had to drive to a pit head, to make a record of coal mining a mile beneath the surface.

These days, the Recording Car jobs are frequently filled with excitement as the BBC covers the British war front. The running commentaries made by a BBC man of the dog fights over the cliffs of Dover are now famous. A recording car once had the privilege to be singled out by a German dive bomber,



A BBC Mobile Recording Unit.

but the crew didn't mind, they got a recording of it.

They have many other interesting recordings stored away now in the BBC Recordings Library. Authenticity is the

"PEPPER YOUNG'S FAMILY"



This intimate family group pictured above are the members of "Pepper Young's" household, central characters in the daily serial, Mondays to Fridays, at 2:30 p.m. (CBC-CKY-CKX). The role of "Sam Young" is played by Thomas Chalmers; "Mother Young" by Marion Barney; "Peggy" by Elizabeth Wragge; and "Pepper" by Curt Arnall. "Pepper Young's Family" is sponsored by the makers of Camay Soap.



THE MERCHANT NAVY

A series of programmes titled "The Merchant Navy" presented on the National Network (Fridays at 7:05 p.m. C.D.T.—CBC-CKY-CKX) tells the story of the Merchant Marine. In each programme some outstanding incident in the work of the merchant ships in this war is dramatized. The programmes also include a musical review, comedy and cabaret artists.

keynote of BBC recordings, and future generations will have the advantage of hearing what actually happened on a specific occasion as well as reading about it in history books.



KRAFT MUSIC HALL

Songstress MARY MARTIN and BING CROSBY in rehearsal.

Lower inset: BOB CROSBY, who M.C.'s the programme while Brother BING is on vacation.



Bing (Harry Lillis) Crosby began his career with the Kraft Music Hall on the second day of 1936, and has headed the programme ever since. Five feet nine inches in height and weighing 165 pounds, Bing likes best to dress in sports clothes, with a hat cocked on one side of his head. Temperament usually associated with big stars does not fit into Bing's personality. He is always ready to give a friendly lift or competent advice to folks working with him on the air, and he makes every man and

woman on the Kraft Music Hall feel that they are a vital part of the show. After each show he makes it a definite point to thank each of his guest stars personally. Because of these attributes Bing is one of the most "regular fellows" starring in radio today.

Born in Tacoma, Washington, he received his education in Spokane where his family moved when he was a little tot. His first stage appearance was in a school presentation of "Julius Caesar", in which Bing played the title role. Bing



1. K.M.H.'s MUSIC MAIDS and HAL do a little harmonizing. 2. KEN CARPENTER, commercial announcer on the "Hall". 3. Comedian VICTOR BORGE (left) and Maestro JOHN SCOTT TROTTER do a duo piano act during rehearsal. 4. CARROLL CARROLL and ED. HELWICK, writers, and EARL EBI of the production staff.

died nobly on the stage. But when he saw the descending curtain was going to hit him, he came to life with the energy of a boy stuck with a pin, and the audience howled for five minutes.

Bing's theatrical ambitions led him through a colorful career in the entertainment world, during which he was a member of Paul Whiteman's Rhythm

Boys, and leading eventually to his spot as master of ceremonies on K.M.H., as well as attaining fame for his recordings and his movie-roles, but even with this success Bing isn't satisfied. Though he heads several corporations of his own, runs a big ranch, owns race horses and goes in for almost every kind of outdoor sport, Bing's biggest ambition is to



become an author. He hopes some day to find time to write the great American novel!

Ken Carpenter

Ken Carpenter, announcer for Kraft Music Hall, has been in radio since 1930. Like Bing, Ken was slated for Law school, but graduated to announcing when a radio advertising agency, from whom he was seeking a job, suggested he try it.

The biggest moment of his career was when he was assigned to broadcast the first Rose Bowl Game between Stanford and Columbia in 1934, but he's had other thrills aplenty, including getting a bad spill when Azucar bolted after winning the 1934 Santa Anita handicap.

Ken is married to his college sweetheart and has a young son of six. He enjoys tennis and reading, dancing and night clubs. He doesn't play bridge, considering it a terrific waste of time.

Besides his commercial announcing, Ken provides a bright spot in the K.M.H. shows with his novel presentations of the "pause" for station identification.

Mary Martin

In spite of her debut at the age of five when she sang at an Elks' Carnival, it took "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" to sky-rocket Mary Martin to fame.

After a few years of dancing and singing engagements Mary, a comparative unknown on opening night, was famous the next morning after her rendition of "My Heart Belongs to Daddy", in a Broadway Musical. Followed a successful movie-career in Hollywood, playing opposite Bing Crosby in "Rhythm on the River", then in "Love Thy Neighbor" and "New York Town".

Mary joined the Kraft Music Hall group of "regulars" on New Year's Day, 1942. She is 5 feet, 4 inches tall, weighs 112 pounds and has light brown hair and eyes. She is married to Richard Halliday, and they have a daughter, born November 3, 1941.

John Scott Trotter

John Scott Trotter, band leader of the Kraft Music Hall, tips the scale at 190 pounds and stands 6 feet, 1 inch in stock-

ing feet. He was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, and began studying the piano at the age of seven. During his years at school Trotter sang in the Glee Club, played the piano in both dance and symphony orchestras, and maintained a scholastic average of 94.6 per cent for four years.

Following eight years as pianist and arranger with Hal Kemp, John Scott Trotter, not yet thirty years of age, stepped into the national spotlight as leader of his own orchestra on one of America's biggest radio programmes. His novel arrangements and harmonic figurations are a popular feature of the Kraft Music Hall shows.

Victor Borge

Victor Borge, the Danish Comedian on Bing Crosby's Kraft Music Hall programme, made radio history when he won a long-term contract before his second guest appearance on the air.

Following his initial, unannounced appearance on the show, switchboard panels at radio stations were jammed with enquiries.

Borge arrived in the United States from Sweden eighteen months ago after a hazardous journey through mine-strewn waters, on an overcrowded liner. When he arrived in New York he didn't know as much as one word of English. Instead of taking a language course, he attended six or eight movies a day and memorized words and phrases.

After six months in New York he went to Florida, then to Hollywood, where Rudy Vallee introduced him to Bing Crosby.

Borge was born in Copenhagen, and during the few years preceding the outbreak of war he was Europe's highest paid and most famous performer.

Music Maids and Hal

Along with Bing Crosby, Mary Martin, John Scott Trotter, Victor Borge and Ken Carpenter, the K.M.H. Music Maids and Hal are a popular part of the regular cast.

Their clever and effective choral arrangements provide a pleasing musical background for the voices of Bing Crosby and Mary Martin.

Outside the regular Kraft Music Hall

'WALTZ TIME' WALTZES ON 1,000th WALTZ

"Waltz Time," NBC's perennially popular musical, starring Frank Munn and Abe Lyman's orchestra, has just waltzed past another milestone in a career dating back to 1933.

Recently the arranging staff penned its 1,000th waltz, and one of the statistically-minded lads figured it out this way: There are 40 notes to a line, 20 lines to the average music part. With 22 musicians in the band, the total comes to 17,600 notes for each waltz arrangement. Multiply that by 1,000, and you get 17,600,000 notes that have been written for "Waltz Time" listeners.

(Radio News Tower)

"Waltz Time" is heard Fridays at 8:00 p.m. (CBC-CKY-CKX).

Frank Munn, popular singing star of "The American Album of Familiar Music" and "Waltz Time," recently celebrated his 20th anniversary on the air. In all those twenty years Frank has never lacked a sponsor.

RECOMMENDED LISTENING

"Eveready Time," a brand new early morning eye-opener, takes the air on both CKY and CKX on Monday, August 3rd. Designed to inject a cheery note into the "cold grey hours of dawn" "Eveready Time" will include bright music, time signals and informal chatter. The programmes will be aired at 7:05 to 7:30 a.m. on CKY, and 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. on CKX, Mondays to Fridays, sponsored by The Canadian National Carbon Co. Ltd.

cast are outstanding guest stars every week. Ranging from jive to the classics and from operatic to torch singers, these guest stars bring to Kraft Music Hall listeners each week a refreshing "newness" which coupled with the easy going informality of the "regulars", makes for a blend of solid entertainment.

MEREDITH WILLSON



Meredith Willson, popular orchestra leader, is again featured in the "Fibber McGee" spot during the summer months (Tuesdays, 8:30 to 9:00 p.m., CBC-CKY-CKX).

With Meredith and Company is John Nesbitt, narrator. S. C. Johnson & Sons Ltd., are sponsors of the Programmes.



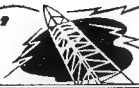
HI-HO, COME TO THE FAIR

Exhibition Week is always a busy one for the staff at CKX, Brandon, and this year was no exception. In addition to the broadcast of the official opening of the Exhibition, CKX microphones were taken through the School Exhibit, along the Midway and to the grandstand to give listeners a word-picture of this great Western event.



"DADDY" BURCHELL

Maurice Burchell, CKY Announcer, is receiving congratulations on the birth of a baby daughter, Judith Ann, on Friday, July 3rd. Father, Mother and Baby all doing well!



OUR OVERSEAS PAGE



There is a story behind this photograph of London children— orphaned by the blitz — being entertained by two Cree Indians serving with the Canadian Forces in England.

The occasion was the distribution by the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey (Canada's High Commissioner in England) of gifts of boots and clothing purchased with money subscribed by Indians living on the Old Crow Reserve, Northern Yukon, Canada.

The donors belonged to such tribes as the Dogribs, Yellowknives and Hares. Their Chief—Peter Moses—arrived one day at a North West Mounted Police Post with the money tied in a gaily-coloured handkerchief. The officer took it and counted out more than £90, which completely surprised the old Chief, who said the Indians wished it to be sent to help the "blitzed" children of London.

At this ceremony, which was broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation, the children read letters of thanks, composed by themselves, over the microphone, and these messages were later transmitted by the Overseas Unit of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to the Indians in the Yukon.

A little Lambeth boy said in his letter "Hello Indians! We have had plenty of bombs but are still keeping fine, so goodbye and good luck!"

Pamela Lucas, whose mother and father were buried in the wreckage of

their home, assured the Indians "Neither my sister nor I will ever forget your kindness."

The two Cree Indians seen in this picture are A. G. Ward and Joe Dacoiné (with guitar) both serving with the Canadians in England.

They sang hill-billy songs to entertain the children and afterwards sent messages to their families, greeting them in their native tongue.

With the High Commissioner were Mrs. Massey and the Mayors and Mayor-esses of Bermondsey, Lambeth and Southwark, the three London Boroughs from which the children came.

★ ★ ★

A GUIDE TO SHORT WAVE LISTENING FOR AUGUST

Prepared for the use of overseas listeners, this chart shows the short wavebands the BBC expects to be using in its Empire Service to serve at the three main listening periods of the day (local time).

Waveband	Call Sign	Wavelength
31	GRI	31.86
	GRU	31.75
	GSB	31.55
	GSC	31.32
	GRY	31.25
	GRX	30.96
	GRH	30.53
	GRG	25.68
	GSD	25.53
	GSN	25.38
25	GSE	25.29
	GRV	24.92
	GRF	24.80
	GSF	19.82
	GSO	19.76
	GSI	19.66
19	GSP	19.60
	GRE	19.49
	GRD	19.42

Local Time	Canada and U.S.A.
Morning	19
Afternoon	19; 31
Evening	25; 31

“As the Listener Hears It”

A recent letter from a listener called attention to some “slips that pass in the mike,” and suggested that we publish these in “Manitoba Calling.”

Announcers are very human and as such are capable of committing errors that provide listeners with a laugh, and we are publishing these because the announcers themselves are the first to “rib” themselves when they find they are guilty of a “slip” or “blow.”

Our writer called attention to the CKY announcer who, when announcing the 1812 Overture, made mention that it had been written as a “momentum” of Napoleon’s invasion of Russia. Of course he meant “memento,” but that’s not the way he said it!

Sometimes a listener will hear a word in a different way than it is meant to be heard—for instance—in the “Manitoba Calling” morning programme resumee an appeal was made in behalf of a certain tag day. The appeal said in part “If you meet a tagger on the street, greet her with a ready smile and a generous contribution.” Imagine the surprise of at least one listener when she understood the announcer to say “tiger,” and not “tagger.”

Spoonerisms, the transposition of the first letters of a phrase, have been responsible for many humorous incidents on the air. Two examples of these are the commentator who was greatly chagrined when he learned that he had said “queer old dean” when he really meant “dear old queen;” and the commercial announcer who waxed eloquent about a “call, tool glass of so and so’s beverage.” The most disconcerting part of spoonerisms is that in an effort to correct one the announcer seems invariably to repeat his initial error, but usually with considerable emphasis due to his mounting embarrassment.

We recall an instance of a fur dealer’s representative who spoke of “winks and measles,” when he meant to refer to “minks and weasels.” His second try



met with exactly the same results, but considerably louder and more forceful!

A much surprised audience listened on a recent late edition of the news to the announcer’s reference to the “leanless” bill—but that unconscious and accidental bit of humour injected into the news would, for a moment, provide respite from the grim procession of war-bulletins.



“STAMP” OUT HITLER!



Latest Communication

Our morning packet of mail on Saturday, July 11th, brought the latest communication from Sgt. Pilot Brian Hodgkinson, former CKY announcer, now a prisoner-of-war in Germany.

The card, addressed to the Manager of CKY, was written on May 10th, taking approximately nine weeks to reach its destination. It reads as follows:-

Hello Bill—at last I’ve a chance to write, sorry I couldn’t do so before as our correspondence is restricted. Give my best to all the gang and the listeners. Mind you save me a spot of time as I’ve a pile of strange and exciting things to tell. I still miss the old life very much and hope it won’t be too long before it can be resumed. Cheerio for now and I’ll be seeing you.

Brian.



Convoy

(Continued from Page 6)

things to put into a pudding. Chocolates for children. Stockings for the wife. A lighter for father. Kindly thoughts for the loved ones—and they are loved ones—at home. So to hide the ache in our hearts we laughed and joked.

The rusty old tramp steamer became very quiet. The skipper found little deputations of men at his door with money and scraps of paper. "Please will you send this cablegram to home for me as soon as you can." Just another December 25th spent on the ocean. One more day alone, and alone. Just thoughts, just a silent longing for a word of comfort and good cheer from anyone.

Yes, the ship was very quiet. I went ashore on business and came back in the evening. The air was icy cold, the launch flung herself forwards over the waves. The evening sky, a paeon of blue and grey and black, was illuminated with stars. There was a smell of snow in the air. We reached the ship. A lantern hung like a beacon over the ladder as we climbed up. The gangway watchman had a grin you could stick a shovel in, across his wide face. "Hey, Frankie, look at your bunk." Nothing more. I got across the iron frozen deck to the saloon. Inside was warmth, cigarette smoke, and laughter. The noise was deafening, the floor a chaos of paper. On every bunk or seat was a ditty bag. With fingers stiff with the cold, I fumbled with the string. A shipmate leaned over with his knife and cut it.

I looked. A huge sweater, what I'd always wanted. I put it on! Chocolates, sweets, a first aid set. The person who thought of that alone was a genius. A mouth organ, writing pad, a lovely razor set, soap, matches. Tobacco for Dad, cigarettes for me. A mysterious tin—Xmas pudding!! then some cocoa, just the thing for a cold night on watch. And underneath a letter, faintly scented, saying "Merry Xmas, sailor boy. Please write." Signed "The Girls in the Curtain Department" and four names—and four kisses.

I looked up as the cabin boy, wearing an enormous brand new scarf, handed me a mug of tea. He was almost in tears

for he was only 15. "Frank, look what I've got. Just what I want to see if there is dust under the bunks." Strapped forever to his waist was the biggest and shiniest new torch I've ever seen. Everyone of us had a ditty bag. Everyone on board the ship was remembered. Kind hands all over Canada had knitted to keep us warm. Brains had worked over the problem of what we would like best and solved the problem beautifully. Money had been spent without thought and we all had a sweet letter from someone on shore.

It was heavenly. It was the most wonderful thing that had ever happened on board that ship, so we sat down and sucked pens or pencils in an attempt to thank our friends for what they'd done. My heart was too full to hope to write what I thought, I didn't know what to say, I couldn't even think until I looked over the deck boy's shoulder. He had a stubby pencil and a small piece of rather grimy note paper and on it he had written:

"Thank you, Santa Claus and the Navy League of Canada."

Frank Laskier.

Following is the translation of a letter from an Indian Sailor to the Navy League of Canada, Manitoba Division, in acknowledgment of a ditty bag received by him. It is written in Urdu, the language of the majority of the people of North India and of all Muslims all over India.

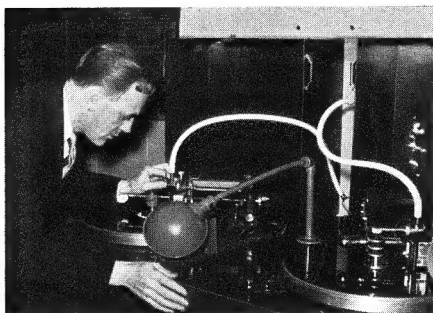
Dear Sir-Memsahiban. (Dear Gentlemen and Ladies).

I have received the parcel which you sent from the Navy League of Canada and the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire.

My name is Mohammed Ali Abdul Gafoor. I am a poor man of India and am engaged in the work of the Navy. The parcel which you sent I have received on the "City of Venice." I received it in good condition. I thank you for it and acknowledge your kindness. I was very happy to receive your parcel. In it I found fourteen or fifteen kinds of articles, the names of which I note—The many things in it were writing materials, tooth-paste, brush, shaving-cream, peppermint, needles, cigarettes, chocolate (some other things which the

Meet the People . . . Around CKY

This month we introduce George Henderson, Equipment Supervisor of Radio Station CKY. Behind a door marked "Control Room—Private" George directs



George Henderson records a programme the flow of programmes as they leave the Studios enroute to the Transmitter from whence they "take the air," or to the CBC Network for transmission to stations across Canada.

The Control Room is the nerve-centre of a broadcasting Studio, as everything produced either in the studios or from a remote point must travel through the main control panel. Through this panel, too, come all the network programmes to be broadcast over CKY. It is the duty of the Equipment Supervisor to keep the delicate instruments in the Control Room and Studio Control Booths in perfect adjustment,—work that calls for constant checking and observation. He is also in charge of the Studio Operating Staff of CKY, and details the Operators to the various programmes and routine duties.

Another duty which has taken on greater proportions since the outbreak

of war is the "cutting," or recording of programmes on discs. Many programmes released by the Network in the East are recorded in CKY's Control Room to be re-broadcast later, at a time more convenient for listeners in the Western zones, (delayed broadcast). In addition to recording Network features the recording units are used to make discs of local programmes for the CKY files, or for recording auditions of commercial shows for prospective sponsors in distant cities. Employing two of the latest type recording units, George supervises the making of these recordings.

George Henderson, through his long association with CKY, and his previous experience in telephonic and telegraphic work, is well qualified for the responsible position he holds as Equipment Supervisor of CKY.

T. Wilford (Wilf.) Davidson, Chief Announcer of CKY, is one of the best known voices in Canadian radio. Wilf joined the staff of CKY in 1935, serving first in the dual role of singer-announcer. In 1938 he moved to Montreal, where he was staff announcer for Station CBM, of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. In 1939 he returned to

Winnipeg to take-over chief-announcing duties at CKY, the position he now holds.



CKY Chief Announcer Wilf Davidson

translator was unable to decipher). I received all these.

God reward you abundantly and preserve your faith secure; God keep your hearts; may God bless you in both worlds; through your children may your names remain immortal.

Obediently yours,
Mohammed Ali Abdul Gafoor.
Bombay-resident.

In addition to his announcing assignments, which include news broadcasts, commercial programmes and CBC presentations, Wilf supervises the activities



"Manitoba Calling"



of the announcing staff, detailing the shifts and assigning announcers to the broadcasts for which they will be responsible.

Among the features in which Wilf's voice is heard regularly are "Treasure Trail;" "The Good Deed Club," a fall and winter presentation from CKY; the 5:30 p.m. news broadcast; "The Choristers;" "Tunes for Today" and many others. In addition to his announcing he has gained a reputation for his appearance as baritone soloist at many functions.

Since the inception of entertainment for the Armed Forces Wilf has devoted a great part of his "off-time" to organizing and directing concert parties at Army and Air Force establishments throughout the province. As Chairman of the Entertainment Committee of Greater Winnipeg Co-ordinating Board for War and Welfare Services he is responsible for entertainment in Military District 10, and No. 2 Training Command. Twenty concert parties have been organized, providing entertainment for six army and thirteen Air Force stations. More than 23,000 men witnessed some sixty programmes between April 21st and July 19th, 1942. As Chairman, Wilf is in charge of the schedule of engagements, as well as acting as master of ceremonies with one of the groups. In one week recently he m.c.'d on two different occasions at Brandon, once at Shilo Camp and once at Fort Garry, Winnipeg.

When Wilf does find a few spare moments he dons his swim trunks and relaxes in the Assiniboine near his home. We don't know if it was priorities, or simply lack of time, but a boat he started to build last summer, is still in the "keel-laying" stages!



HELLO AGAIN

Flying Officer D. R. P. Coats has returned to Winnipeg, following a brief posting to the East, to take up new duties in the R.C.A.F. Recruiting Centre, No. 2 Command. Previously Mr. Coats was at No. 3 Wireless School, Tuxedo.

THE LISTENER WRITES

We welcome letters from our listeners at all times. Names and addresses of the writers must be given but will be treated as confidential.

PICTURES POPULAR—"We and our friends enjoy 'Manitoba Calling' very much indeed. My friends always go to my radio table to get it whenever they call, and we are all keenly interested in the photos, especially the ones of the staff and announcers. Keep up the good work! . . ."—Baldur, Man.

SOME FAVORITES — "Just a few lines of appreciation for the programmes, 'Breakfast at Sardi's' and 'Sketches in Melody.' The latter programme is very similar to our 'Studio Strings' and I was wondering if it were not possible to have these programmes daily. . . ."—Winnipeg, Man.

ANOTHER "DOWN-UNDER"—"Enclosed is my report on reception of your station. I was very pleased to hear your signals as I had made several attempts to log your station. My principle reason for being so keen to do so was that I have a pen-friend who lives near Winnipeg and who is an ardent listener to CKY. Another stimulant was the reading of several numbers of 'Manitoba Calling,' which is a very interesting little paper. They were sent to me by my pen-friend. It may be of interest to you to know that CKY is only the third Canadian broadcast station I have logged. . . ."—St. Kilda, New Zealand.

THANK YOU!—"Though a comparative new-comer to this part of the country, I have been particularly impressed by the friendly manner of your announcers on CKY. Your programs, too, are diversified and entertaining, and the broadcast of news from your station seems well-planned to accommodate the greatest number of workers whose listening-time is restricted. . . ."—Winnipeg, Man.



**GIVE TILL IT HURTS HITLER!
BUY WAR SAVINGS STAMPS**

Vacation Time ! ! !



*We look at sunburned boys
like you*

*With carefree laughs and eyes
of blue*

*Noses peeling — but hearts
of gold*

*And wonder why you must
grow old.*

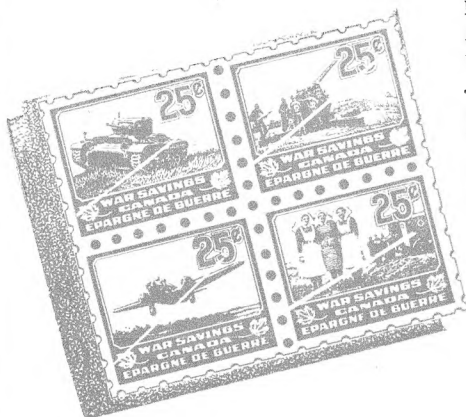
Tickets to Cologne

COLOGNE, ESSEN and points east as far as Berlin and to Berchtesgaden on a schedule of 1,000 planes daily.

We can't all be aboard these bombers but we can and **MUST** supply our brave airmen with the best planes in the world to take them there and back. And then when **YOU** see a bomber overhead winging its way eastward, you can say, "I helped to pay for that plane!"

Yes, War Savings Stamps are "Tickets to Berlin"

tickets in repayment for Coventry, Bath, Bristol, Plymouth, London, Canterbury tickets to bring back peace The boys need planes and more planes, guns and more guns, and more tanks, and more ships . . . So you **MUST** save every possible cent to buy more War Savings Stamps. Make a supreme effort, now, this August.



**Buy a War Savings
Stamp Every Day
During August**

